

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 833

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lee Chase on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Lee Chase is one such estimable individual who, after serving with distinction for more than thirty years with Dawn of Hope, Incorporated, is taking a much-deserved retirement in December 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase was born in Johnson City in 1951 to parents Hugh and Alice Chase; he is a 1969 graduate of Jonesboro High School, where he participated in the National Honor Society, the football team, and Student Government Association, which he served as the student body president; and

WHEREAS, Lee Chase received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Speech in 1973 and his master's degree in city management studies from East Tennessee State University (ETSU); and

WHEREAS, while attending ETSU, Mr. Chase was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and a cabinet member of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, at the start of his career, Lee Chase was employed by the Johnson City Boys & Girls Club in 1977 and later the Tennessee Department of Human Services – Vocational Rehabilitation from 1978 to 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase began his long and storied career with Dawn of Hope, Incorporated, in 1985; Dawn of Hope is a nonprofit agency that provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Lee Chase served Dawn of Hope as a vocational department administrator from 1985 to 1986; in recognition of his abilities and leadership, he was promoted to executive director in 1986, a position he has fulfilled with acumen and alacrity to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase has been instrumental in increasing the staff and resources of the organization; at the start of his tenure in 1985, Dawn of Hope served 125 individuals with a staff of thirty-two and a budget of \$750,000; by 2016, the organization was serving 209 individuals with a staff of 305 and a budget of \$11 million; and

WHEREAS, he initiated two building expansions to the Dawn of Hope Vocational Center as well as the acquisition and renovation of the Stratton Center from 2000 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, through the Dawn of Hope Foundation, Lee Chase developed a number of charitable endeavors, including the Dawn of Hope Golf Classic, the Spring Luau and Spooktacular, and an endowment fund from estate gifts to the Foundation, which currently holds \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, always a civic-minded individual, Mr. Chase served as a member and vice chair of the Washington County Commission, which he also served as the chair of the Education Committee, Committee on Committees, and the Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, he served on the board of directors for the Johnson City Development Authority and the board of directors of the Tennessee County Commissioner Association, which included service as the chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee and the By-laws Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase also served as a board member of the Tennessee Community Organizations from 1989 to 1993 and again from 1994 to 2018; during his tenures, he served as president in 1993 and 2005 and was named Executive Director of the Year in 1994 and 1999; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the Title 33 Revision Committee by Governor Don Sundquist in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase has served on the Developmental Disabilities Policy Planning Council since 2015 and various other Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities committees and workgroups; and

WHEREAS, Lee Chase is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including Johnson City Kiwanis, which he served as president of the board of directors; Central Baptist Church, which he served as chair of the board of directors; Eastern 8 Community Development Corporation, which he served on the board of directors and presently serves as vice chair; Johnson City Washington County Boys & Girls Club, which he serves on the board of directors; and the Johnson City Public Library, which he served on the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Lee Chase is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Susan Bradley Chase; together, they have two children, Bradley Paul Chase and Ashley Briana Chase; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chase exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Lee Chase has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Lee Chase our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.